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the Legislature grinds to a halt, through one motion after another, I would suggest and I would be willing to submit to a rule that the Speaker could be allowed almost unlimited authority to shut off debate, to raise issues, to call for the question. I think that we need to recognize that no one member of this body should be allowed to thwart the will of 48 members. Senator Chambers has announced publicly that he wants to discuss this bill section by section, line by line, phrase by phrase. That's fine with me so long as it renders light advice and counsel on the subject. I would not be fair to the rest of you, nor to the constituents at my district nor the members of the State of Nebraska if I allowed that process to completely stop the work of this Legislature. I respect Senator Chambers. I respect those persons who oppose my bill. I introduced the bill in good faith. I have met time, after time, after time with individuals who oppose the bill. I have accepted amendments. I am still willing to accept amendments that are reasonable, that do not work to the detriment of the original intention of the bill and that is to provide adequate health care at reasonable cost for the citizens of this state. There are persons who are not concerned with that, but most of us are. Most of us need to be. I, therefore, suggest that it would be entirely wrong, entirely improper for myself as an individual or for this body to sit ...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ... to sit with our, like a little pup, with our tail between our legs and whimper while we allow the work of this Legislature to be impeded. Therefore, Mr. President, after the Speaker has made his remarks I ask again that we hear the debate on LB 703.

PRESIDENT: Speaker Burbach.

SPEAKER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I have the same concern that everyone else, whether it's Senator Chambers, Senator Schmit or any one of the other members of this body. We have an obligation that we must ... when we took our oath of office, I believe it was January 7, in that oath was the ... or it's in our Constitution at least and it would actually be in that oath, that we appropriate the monies to operate the State of Nebraska. This is my concern, that we do take up the appropriation bills at this time.

On early in January of '75 this body placed trust into my leadership or authority. They gave me the authority, as your Speaker, to do the various things that I think is necessary for this body to do, the appropriation bills are one of them. I'm not trying to discount the importance of the malpractice bill of 703. Things being as they are, and it is a long drawn out affair that we must pursue, or it looks like we will have to pursue in order to have the passage or the defeat of LB 703 and some other bills. I say that we must follow the order of the Speaker which were confirmed by this body.